

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Eighth General Assembly of the Colored Disciples of Christ

in Eastern North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania,

New York and New Jersey.

Which Convened at

Plymouth, N. C., May 20-21-22, 1942

Elder Noah Boston, Pastor



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Chief Elder E. F. Johnson, Dover, N. C.

Assistant Chief Elder Joseph James, R. F. D. Jamesville, N. C.

Secretary Elder A. B. Aycock, R. F. D. No. 2, Faison, N. C.

Ass't. Sec't. Elder T. B. Howell, 704 Burrell St. Elizabeth City, N. C.

10

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Eighth General Assembly of the Colored Disciples of Christ
in Eastern North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania,

New York and New Jersey.

Which Convened at

Plymouth, N. C., May 20-21-22, 1942

Elder Noah Boston, Pastor



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Chief Elder E. F. Johnson, Dover, N. C.

Assistant Chief Elder Joseph James, R. F. D. Jamesville, N. C.

Secretary Elder A. B. Aycock, R. F. D. No. 2, Faison, N. C.

Ass't. Sec't. Elder T. B. Howell, 704 Burrell St. Elizabeth City, N. C.

Plymouth, N. C.

May 20, 1942.

According to the Decision of the Point Councils, we met at Spring Green Church of Christ on the above said date Elder Noah Boston Pastor.

Called to order by Elder A. B. Aycock; Hymn No. 5; Prayer by Elder J. R. Best; Elder Hedgebeth read St. John 3 chapter then hymn No. 65 was sung, then Chief Elder E. F. Johnson took the chair and after some brief remarks a proposal prevailed that Elder J. J. Ward fill Elder T. B. Holle's place until he arrive. Then the Marshalls was appointed: Marshalls Elder K. K. Wiley and David Griffin. Then Elders W. H. Peele and E. Z. Coley was called to take the Divine Service. Service Elder W. H. Peele read hymn No. 5 and read Act. 2-1:19 then the above line hymn was sung. Prayer by Elder J. W. Pitt then Elder W. H. Peele sang a spirital and presented Elder E. Z. Coley to preach the guide sermon who came forward and choosed for a text Heb. 11-16, "But Now They Desire A Better Country."

The preacher preached with much power and a good meeting prevailed. Elder W. H. Peele used the closing remarks Finance Solicitors, Elders Chand Winstead and P. R. Mewbern lifted a collection to the ammount \$5.10. Then we were dismissed until 2 p. m.

Wednesday Evening Session

The session was opened by Elder T. B. Howele. Prayer by Elder W. C. Gillham, then Chief Elder E. F. Johnson sang hymn No. 232 and announced the house was ready for business.

It was proposed and agreed that Elder Joseph James be assistant chief council.

The presiding officers of the different assembly were honored to the official column.

Chief Elder E. F. Johnson in his address thanked the Brotherhood for their hearty support and cooperation. The Secretary Elder A. B. Aycock and Assistant Secretary Elder L. B. Howell likewise.

Then the Chief Elder R. F. Johnson made some pointed remarks and preceded to appoint the different committes as follows.

Committee On Divine Worship

Sister Cora Lewis, Sister Rathe Gilliam, Sister Ethel Rodgers, Brother Z. D. Exum, Brother Luther Flynn.

Finance Solisitors Elder C. W. Winstead, Elder P. R. Mewbern.

Committee resolutions: Elder W. C. Gilliam, Elder H. D. Davis, Elder W. C. Oden, Elder J. R. Best, Elder J. H. Harper, Elder S. W. R. Kays, Elder K. O. Farrow, Elder I. W. Faison, Elder O. S. Lucas, Elder W. G. Vinson, Elder J. D. Flowers, Elder W. H. Peele, Elder Fred Ashford, Brother George Smith, Brother E. L. Battle, Brother N. A. McLaurin, Brother Sanford Cordan.

Committee on Divine Worship reported as follows tonight: Elder J. F. McLaurin and Elder R. W. Butts alternate tomorrow Elder Davis and Elder S. W. R. Kays alternate. Then we were assigned to our homes.

Elder W. S. Keys ,mail carrier: Then bussiness was dismissed until Thursday morning.

Wednesday Night Service

Service was opened with welcome program. Music by the choir, scripture lesson by Elder A. B. Aycock, Pr. 100, prayer by Elder E. Z. Coley. Selection by the choir, then the master of ceremonies, Brother George Smith, Jr., called Miss Elma A. Faison on behalf of host, Church duet by Miss Lillian Moore and Miss Letha McRae, then we were welcomed on behalf of the city by Prof. McLane. Supt. of County Schools. Solo by Miss Lillian Fort. Then we were welcomed on behalf of the New Bethes Baptist Church by Lawyer P. H. Bell. Then a selection by the choir. Then we were welcomed on behalf of the White Churches of the City by Rev. B. E. Taylor. Solo by Sister Lucas. Then Prof. E. E. Harrahan, President of the Business Men of the City welcomed us on behalf of the Business Men of the City. Selection by the choir. Then Prof. E. J. Hayes welcomed us on behalf of the Methodist Churches of the city.

A selection by the choir closing the welcome program that had thrown around us such loving appreciation of our being with. Then the house was filled with the Spirit of Perserverence. Then the chief presented Prof. J. D. Henry of Clayton, N. C., to respond which he did in a few well chosen words and graceful diction and cotations from some of the worlds leading poets.

Then Chief Elder E. F. Johnson turned the services over to the shakers of the house.

Elder R. W. Butts sang a Spiritual and presented Elder J. F. McLaurin who preached an educational sermon from the subject, "The Nets of Life", text, St. John 21-12, Come and Dine. The speaker did justice to the occasion, Elder R. W. Butts used the inviting remarks and a very good meeting prevailed. The finance solisitors lifted a collection of \$13.00. Then we were assigned to our home and dismissed until Thursday morning 9:30 a. m.

Thursday Morning, May 21, 1942

We met according to adjournment. Officer in their places.

Elder J. H. Harper opening hymn No. 21. Scripture lesson by Elder W. C. Gillan, St. John, 4-1: 24, we were led to the throne of God by Brother Walter Brothers. Second hymn No. 166 then the house was announced in order for Business minutes of the previous day was read, and received.

Then while the committee on resolutions was on their duty we discussed several topics (First the Church at Tarboro, N. C.) conclusion it was in the hand of the Washington and Norfolk assembly and it was after word proposed and agreed that Elder M. L. Loftin discontinue his pastoral visits at Tarboro Carried. We were dismissed for preaching.

Thursday—Preaching Service

Service was opened by congregation singing. Then Elder S. W. R. Keyes read hymn No. 23 and St. John 10-1: 16. Then after the above read hymn was sang Elder Walter Brothers again led in prayer. Second hymn No. 122. Then Elder S. W. R. Keys presented Elder H. D. Davis chief of the G. and R. Assembly who came forward in the Spirit of a pulpit arator and choosed for his subject: "Is Modern Christianity That of Christ?" References St. Math. 16:18—18-16; St. John 15: 14; Acts 1:15—2:41. The preacher spoke with heroic zeal and delivered a message from the book. Divine Elder S. W. R. Keys used the inviting remarks and a good meeting prevailed. Collection \$9:02. Then we were dismissed for dinner.

Thursday Evening Session

The session was called on by Elder M. F. Loftin. Hymn No. 193. Scripture lesson: St. John 14: 1-13. Prayer by Elder J. W. Pitt. Then chief Elder Joseph James sang a hymn and announced the house in order for business.

Then the mother of the Churches in and near Tarboro referred to chief and officers of the W. and N. Assembly. A proposal prevailed that we appoint a general committee composed of the differend assembly. It was proposed and agreed that no chief nor councilman be appointed on this committee except the Northeastern Assembly carried committee on general business as follows: Elders

W. E. Keys, C. W. Winstead, P. R. Mewbern, C. H. Cordin, W. J. Atkinson, F. D. Wiggs, R. W. Butts, W. C. Gillam and J. F. McLaurin. Committee on Divine Worship reported as follows: Tonight Elder O. S. Lucas and Elder T. B. Howell alternate. Friday 11 a. m. Elder T. B. Howell conduct the memorial service and at 12 a. m.. Elder E. F. Johnson and Chief Elder W. R. Steeley alternate. At 8:00 p. m. Elder W. C. Gillam preached. Elder J. D. Henry alternate. The final report was received and the committee discharged. Then Chief Elder W. R. Steeley gave us a brief address concerning his encouraging. Then Miss Gertrude Godley was presented, who came forward and spoke of our success. Then we were dismissed by Chief Joseph James.

Thursday Night—Preaching Service

Service was opened by the choir singing "Hust Jesus Bare the Cross home". Scripture lesson Roman 10-1:21. Prayer by Elder W. C. Gillham. Second song "What A Fellowship". Then Elder Howell made a statement and presented Elder O. S. Lucas, Supervision of the Northeastern Assembly, who arose with smiles and preached a doctorinal serman using for his text Romans 10-1 he used for his subject, (Straight But in the Wrong Field) The Speaker did justice to the occasion. Elder T. B. Howele used the inviting remarks and a soulsterring prevailed while one came back to the Church. Collection \$15.65. Then an after collection of \$7.35 was taken for the sick and aged Preachers then we were dismissed until Friday 9:30 a. m.

Friday Morning, May 21, 1942.

Service was opened by Elder J. W. Pitt; Hymn, "Oh God Our Help in Ages Pass". Elder C. R. Williams Read Scrpiture lesson from St. John 3-1:15. Prayer by J. R. Whitaker; Second hymn No. No. 23; with hand shaking then the house was announced in order for business.

Proceeding of previous day was called for which was read and received for discussion later. We were favored with some very loving remarks from Elder W. J. Atkinson from Brooklyn, N. Y., we heard some very good addresses from Chief Elder G. F. Johnson and Secretary Elder T. B. Howelle then we were dismissed for the Memorial Service.

Memorial Service began when Elder T. B. Howell lined No. 260 and read the 90 Ps. Then the afelined was sung; Prayer by Elder David Wallace; Then Elder Howell sang a Memorial song and presented Elder W. R. Steeley Chief of the W. and N. assembly who spoke in high term of our loved and lost ones.

Elders T. H. Daniel and W. A. Fordham and presented Chief Elder E. F. Johnson who led us through his preliminaries to the subject Three Christian Cirlanties References 1st Tim 2:12 Romans 8th and 2d Cor. 5.1, through which the speaker was able to so fill our souls with joy that we were lifted from our gloom to the planes of height after which Elder J. H. Harper sang a corous; then a collection of \$16.30; then we were dismissed for dinner.

Friday Evening Session

The session was called on by the congregation singing; prayer by Elder J. D. Jackson; then Chief Elder Joseph James sang, "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"; Then Chief Elder E. J. Johnson announced the house in order for Business; Then the committee on resolutions ask leaf to make their report (See Resolutions) which was received and the committee discharged.

The hour arrived to hear Brother Battle all Business was Stopped and Prof. E. F. Battle general manager of the Standard Leadership Training School at Kinston, N. C., Brother Battle made a lasting impression with the pointed and valuable thoughts he brought to us. It was proposed and agreed that assembly settle its endebtness carried; then we were dismissed.

Friday Night—Preaching Service

Service was called on by Congregational singing; then the choir sang "Am I a Soldier of the Cross", after which Elder C. E. Williams read 2d Peter 3-1:10, prayer by Elder A. Parker then the choir sang "Take Your Burden to the Lord," then Elder T. B. Howell introduced Miss Charlotte Johnson of Dover, N. C., who brought us an able address from an educational viewpoint, Miss Johnson proved her self well prepared for the task of life. After which Elder J. D. Henry invoked God's presence upon us, as individuals Brother Henry made some brief remarks and introduced Elder W. C. Gilliam from Brooklyn, N. Y., ask that Sister Galloway to sing a selection which was to the delight of all who heard her, then Elder Gillan preached a Soulstirring sermon from St. John 4:24, the speaker did justice to the occassion; Elder Harvey used the inviting remarks and the results was a very good meeting. After some remarks by Chief Elder Joseph James the finance solisitors raised a collection of \$13.11, then after collection of \$7.00 was raised dismission by Elder J. D. Harvey.

P. S. In the Friday Evening Session it was proposed and agreed that the general assembly officers succeed themselves carried and that Elder K. O. Farrow be general treasure carried. It was proposed and agreed that Elder M. F. Loftin discontinue his pastoral visits at Tarbora, N. C., carried. It was proposed and

agreed that Elder J. T. Cooper be silenced and his Church elect them another pastor carried.

Endebtness paid General Chief Elder E. F. Johnson \$20.00; paid Assembly Chief Elder Joseph James \$10.00; pair Secretary Elder A. B. Aycock \$20.00; paid Assistant Secretary Elder T. B. Howe \$10.00; paid Marshal Elder K. K. Wiley \$3.00 paid Marshal Elder David Griffin \$3.00; Mail Carriers Elder W. S. Keyse \$1.50;

Committee On Resolutions

Elder W. C. Gillham, \$6.00; Elder F. D. Davis, \$6.00; Elder W. C. Oden, \$6.00; Elder J. R. Best, \$6.00; Elder S. W. R. Keys, \$6.00; Elder K. O. Farrow, \$6.00; Elder I. W. Faison, \$6.00; Elder O. S. Lucas, \$5.00, Elder W. G. Vinson \$6.00; Elder J. D. Henry \$3.00; Elder W. H. Peele, \$6.00; Elder Fred Ashford, \$6.00; Brother George Smith, \$6.00; Brother N. A. McLaurin, \$6.00; Brother E. F. Battle, \$6.00; Brother Sanford Cordin, \$6.00.

Special For The Goldsboro Christian Institute

(A) Teachers salary, expense funds, and all other funds, shall be paid directly by the treasure of the Educational funds upon requisition by the president of the Institution upon regular form signed by the chairman and secretary of the trustee board, a copy of which shall be sent to the Assembly Secretary and Educational Treasure for his payment.

(A) The principle shall fill a written report with the chairman of the board and each month giving average daily attendance and running expence and report annually to the assembly, giving complete detailed report.

(C) The trustee shall report annually to the assembly, and their report shall cmoprise the total monthly report of the institute.

RESOLUTIONS

(1) That each appointment shall have a different treasure, and collections shall deposit the funds collected in the treasure for which it is collected, and that no draft on these funds be paid out unless signed by the chief and secretary of the assembly.

(2) Be it resolved that all perment officers of the annual assembly shall be ellected for a period of two years at the close of the assembly by the house.

(3) Be it resolved that that the assemblies open on Tuesday and close on Friday of the same week at their scheduled time except the Northeastern which will open and close at will as to time.

(4) Be it resolved that the Secretary and Chief of the annual Assembly and the Secretary and Chief of the General Assembly respectively prepair the Programs for their Assemblies.

(5) Be it resolved that the Secretary of the General Assembly shall receive \$20.00 per session and pay for special service at any other time.

(6) Be it resolved that the General Chief shall not be an Annual Chief, and be it further resolved that the General Chief shall receive \$15.00 annually and \$20.00 at the General Session.

(7) Be it resolved, that the various auxiliaries of the Assembly District shall enroll all ministers as members by virtue of their ordination.

(8) Be it resolved that there shall be two Bible School conventions in the G. R. D. known as the No. 1 and No. 2 lack shall meet annually at such times as they may determine.

(9) Be it resolved that any Church shall have the right to elect its Pastor from either of the Districts of the various Assemblies, provided, however that each Church represent in its respective Assembly and the Pastor shall see to it. that provision be carried out, or he shall be disqualified as Pastor of said Church by his Assembly.

(10) Be it resolved that the President of the Northeastern Assembly can serve on the Council Board.

(11) Be it resolved that the Church shall Notify its Pastor or the Pastor Notify the Church within 90 days if either expect a change.

(12) Be it resolved that each Pastor encourage the Bible School to represent in the Bible School convention, and to give his support to the convention that it may represent in the Annual Assembly.

(13) No Brother with the Disciples shall be set apart to preach unless he has a common school education and working knowledge of the Bible and a good Christian Character.

(14) Be it resolved that all ministers who accept the Pastorate of a Church or Churches shall serve for the period chosen if possible; and that no Minister shall promise to or Pastor two Churches whose days for service and hours are the same.

(15) No one coming from the denominations shall be set apart to Preach for the Disciples, until he understands the doctrine as taught by the Disciples; and no young Brother that has been brought up with the Disciples shall be set apart to preach until Pastor and congregation are well satisfied that he is qualified, but he shall be given power to exercise his gift and all local Preachers shall cooperate with his Pastor.

(16) All congregations shall give letter of recommendations other requested. All members who leave their Church for 12 months shall ask for a certificate of absence before leaving, all members who are away from home shall correspond with the Church every three months.

(17) All Elders are requested to represent with \$2.50 and Delegates with \$1.50.

(18) Any member of the Church found intemperate shall be tried by the Church and found guilty shall be expelled until reform.

(19) Any Minister found interfered with any congregation of which he is not Pastor or member shall be silenced.

(20) When a Pastor has resigned or a new Pastor called the Church shall send a letter to the Assembly respecting his honor as he have done.

(21) In towns of less than 5,000 inhabitants no Preacher shall be allowed to build a Church no nearer an old one than one half mile in the country; Four miles without consent of the Council or the Assembly.

(22) I. W. A. James propose that any Minister belonging with the Disciples who knowingly does not perform his duty and conform to the agreements of the General Assembly or use his influence in his congregation for the same, shall not be elected to any or appoint of the General Assembly.

(23) Any member of any congregation who does not perform his or her duty in the local congregation shall not be allowed any voice in the local congregation nor be elected to any Assembly Union meeting or any important meeting.

(24) That each member pay 50 cents to the Annual Assembly.

(25) There shall be a children's Day each year for the Bible School Convention in the Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly and for Church extension in the Washington-Norfolk Assembly.

(26) No money shall be paid out of the Assembly treasure without an order signed by the Chief and Secretary of the Assembly.

(27) All Elders shall attend the Union Meeting in their respective district and those postoring in the district where they Pastor.

(28) That all Deacons and officers shall cooperate with their Pastor upon failure they shall be excluded from office.

(29) All Ministers who receive candidates for Baptism—the Church and Pastor shall Baptise them as soon as possible.

(30) No Church shall have the right to elect but one Elder to serve them during the year; but the Pastor have the power to choose any Preacher that he may desire to serve on any Sunday during the year.

(31) No Preacher coming from the denomination shall hold any charge as Pastor until he has been in the Assembly twelve months except in emergency.

(32) No council shall remove a Preacher from his Church to which he has been elected or sent except for a cause known against his moral and Christian character.

(33) No Deacon shall have the power to close the door of the Church against his Pastor or stop him from preaching, but he may notify the seven Councilmen.

(34) No member shall have the right to invite any Elder to come and preach to the congregation to which he or she belongs, except by permission from the Pastor or Deacon, and said invited Preacher shall not accept said invitation unless Pastor is aware of it.

(35) There shall be a Sunday School Assembly held in every Union Meeting District annually and the proceeds be reported to the Assembly.

(36) All Pastors in charge of Churches shall have control of all money raised in preaching service except expenses of Church service on said day.

(37) No Church shall ordain a man for Deacon who have not been in the Church one year.

(38) Resolved that these resolutions go into effect upon their adoption by the General Assembly; and all Pastors who do not comply with any one or more of them shall be silenced until he does comply.

(39) Resolve that all women preachers among the Disciples of Christ shall have a Pastor, and be subject to their Pastor in regards to her mission or Church.

(40) Be it resolved that the Trustee Board shall not have the power to a mortgage or note, or borrow money, without the consent of the Assembly, and Chief and Councilmen, and no money shall be paid out of the treasurer of either the Assembly the School or the Superannuate except an order signed by the Chief and Secretary of the Assembly.

(41) Resolved that should a complaint arise against Minister, the chairman of the Council Board shall be notified; and the defendant shall also be notified as to time and place such notices shall be given by the Chief and Council Board.

(42) Resolved that the Councilmen shall be empowered to settle all matters that may arise during the year, and in case their decision seem severe, the person or persons shall have the right to appeal to the General Assembly for a vote on their decision.

(43) Be it resolved that no sinner shall be a member of any of our choirs and that no quartet composed of sinners be allowed in any of our Churches.

(44) Be it resolved that any Assembly within our boundary organized otherwise than under the auspice of the General Assembly shall be considered bogus and unauthorized.

(45) That no member or members shall organize anything in the Churches without consent of the Pastor and Deacon Board.

(46) Be it resolved that there be no prohibition against a Preacher of the Western District Pastoring in the East and Eastern Preachers Pastoring in the West, provided however that the Churches represent in their respective district; and Pastors shall be held responsible for said funds and its delivery.

(47) Be it resolved that all Deacons shall attend Sunday School, Prayer meeting and other religious services and that on time, else they be dropped from office and new appointment made by the Pastor and Church.

(48) Resolved that we accept the constitutions of the Woman's Home Mission Society and recommend the following salaries president \$7.00, vice president \$3.00, secretary \$7.00, assistant secretary \$3.00, banking committee dropped and after disbursement the balance put in treasure to be sent to the Assembly.

(49) Be it resolved that there shall not be any drums or timbels allowed as a form of worship in any of the Churches of Christ in any of our districts.

(50) Be it resolved that there be a Minister's and Layman's Conference held at the Goldsboro Christain Institute each year in the month of June for the Ministers and Laymen of the Goldsboro and Raleigh District and a similar conference shall be held in the Washington and Norfolk district at such time as they been appropriate.

(51) That all Ministers be compelled to attend the Ministers' and Laymens' Conference in their respective districts and that all Ministers be requested to study the questions for discussion in the next session.

(52) Resolved that the Chief shall call the Councilmen together and preside when sitting as a joint Council.

(53) Resolved that the Chief and Assistant Chief shall not serve on the Council Board.

(54) Resolved that all Auxiliaries be subject to the Assembly.

(55) Resolved that all treasures who misplace money intrusted in their care shall be removed from office until the money is replaced.

(56) Resolved that the Chief shall receive \$20.00, Assistant Chief \$10.00 annually for their service.

(57) Resolved that all Churches use for their communion unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread, and shall observe the 13th chapter of St. John upon failure shall be reported to the Councils.

(58) Be it resolved that all Churches in town that have 200 members or more shall have two preaching Sundays each month and the Pastor on accepting them shall serve them two Sundays each month.

(59) Be it resolved that ten per cent of the money raised by the annual Assemblies shall go to the treasure of the General Assembly.

(60) Be it resolved that the superannuated money, shall be put in treasure for the superannuated Ministers. And be it farther resolved that it shall not be used for any other purpose.

(61) Be it resolved that these resolutions go into effect upon their adoption.

AIM AND PLEA OF THE CHURCH

We the Disciples of Christ in the boundaries of the General Assembly wishing to be in complete accord and agreement on the doctrine of the Church, set forth the following which has been the slogan of the Church for more than one hundred years.

GENERAL AIM OF THE CHURCH—

Restoration of the New Testament, teaching and practice.

PLEA OF THE CHURCH

No creed but Christ; No book but the Bible; No name but the Divine. Where the book speaks we speak; Where the book is silent we are silent. In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; In all things charity.

YOUR SERVANTS

Elder W. Gillham

Elder H. D. Davis

Elder W. C. Oden

Elder J. R. Best

Elder J. H. Harper

Elder K. O. Farrow

Elder I. W. Faison

Elder O. L. Lucas

Elder W. G. Vinson

Elder J. D. Harvey

Elder W. H. Peele

Elder Fred Ashford

Brother George Smith

Brother E. L. Battle

Brother N. A. McLaurin

Brother Sanford Cordin

Committee On Resolutions

Sept 15 - 2.

3.

$$\begin{array}{r} 070 \\ 2 \\ \hline 140 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 302 \\ 556 \\ 477 \\ 540 \\ 60 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 000 \\ 000 \\ 3000 \\ 4000 \\ \hline 7000 \end{array}$$

5.012

Monday night after the second
 evening on Mt Bailey N.C.

$$\begin{array}{r} 000 \\ 000 \\ 000 \\ \hline 000 \end{array}$$

29 Jan 9. 4. m. 7 am 102